



**Chairman's Statement
of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session
with the Republic of Korea**

9 September 2020, Viet Nam

1. The ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) 10+1 Session with the Republic of Korea (ROK) was held on 9 September 2020. The Meeting was co-chaired by The Honourable Dato Erywan Pehin Yusof, Minister of Foreign Affairs II of Brunei Darussalam, and H.E. Mrs. Kang Kyung-wha, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the ROK.
2. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the significant progress of ASEAN-ROK relations with the substantive outcomes and deliverables of the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit on the 30th Anniversary of Dialogue Relations held on 25-26 November 2019 in Busan, including the adoption of the Leaders' Joint Vision Statement for Peace, Prosperity and Partnership. The Meeting welcomed the significant progress made in the implementation of the ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action (2016-2020). Noting that the current Plan of Action will be completed this year, the Meeting adopted the new Plan of Action (2021-2025) to forge closer cooperation in the next five years. ASEAN appreciated the ROK for following through its New Southern Policy with new initiatives and projects to strengthen ASEAN-ROK relations.
3. The Meeting reiterated support to the priorities of ASEAN this year in advancing a "Cohesive and Responsive" ASEAN under Viet Nam's Chairmanship and welcomed the *ASEAN Leaders' Vision Statement on a Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN: Rising Above Challenges and Sustaining Growth*, adopted at the 36th ASEAN Summit on 26 June 2020. The Meeting underlined the need to strengthen regional solidarity and maintain ASEAN Centrality to respond effectively to current and future challenges as well as harness opportunities including those brought about by digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
4. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of ASEAN-ROK cooperation in mitigating the impact of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and encouraged maintaining necessary interconnectedness in the region by facilitating the essential movement of people and goods for diplomatic, humanitarian, scientific and business activities to the extent that each country's disease control efforts may not be undermined, while respecting national laws and regulations, as underlined by the Leaders at the Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on COVID-19 on 14 April 2020 via video conference. ASEAN and the ROK continued to enhance cooperation through ASEAN platforms and mechanisms

including the ASEAN Plus Three framework and the recently adopted Joint Initiatives on Bolstering the Economic Connectivity between ASEAN-ROK in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak. ASEAN appreciated the ROK's contribution of medical supplies and equipment, as well as the conduct of in-country training for laboratory officers under the USD 5 million project on Enhancing the Detection Capacity for COVID-19 in ASEAN Member States funded by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF) which was launched on 16 June 2020. ASEAN also welcomed the ROK's pledged contribution of USD 1 million from the AKCF to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.

5. The Meeting recognised the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and underscored the importance of enhanced international cooperation in addressing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies and emphasized emergency measures deemed necessary for responding to public health emergencies must be proportionate, transparent and dependent on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Meeting recognized the importance of cooperation in development, manufacturing and distribution of anti-viral medicines and vaccines, adhering to the objectives of efficiency, safety, equal accessibility and affordability, and noted the role of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) in developing and delivering vaccines. The Ministers also highlighted building and maintaining resilient, open and connected supply chains and supporting a sustained economic recovery. Towards this end, ASEAN Ministers looked forward to the ROK's support for the ASEAN Regional Reserves of Medical Supplies for Public Health Emergencies once it is established and encouraged efforts and supports from the ROK to ASEAN's efforts to recover from the impacts of COVID-19 as well as development of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework. The Meeting also looked forward to enhance collaboration in public health through the ASEAN-ROK Health Dialogue Channel and noted the ROK's proposal to establish an "ASEAN-ROK Health Ministers' Meeting".
6. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) as the key code of conduct governing inter-State relations in the region, underscored its relevance to the wider region and recognised its contribution to promoting regional peace, stability and security.
7. The Meeting underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and reiterated their commitment to support an ASEAN-centred regional architecture that is open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based, strengthening the efficiency of and promoting mutually-reinforcing synergy between the ASEAN-led mechanisms, including the ASEAN Plus One, ASEAN Plus Three (APT), East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), and ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Meeting underscored the importance of multilateralism, regionalism and international law in contributing to global and regional peace, stability and prosperity. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and looked forward to the ROK's support in the four key areas identified in the AOIP, namely maritime cooperation, connectivity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and economic and other areas of cooperation through ASEAN-led mechanisms to promote mutual trust, mutual

respect, and mutual benefit as well as to contribute to peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

8. The Meeting welcomed the progress made towards the full conclusion of the negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement and looked forward to the signing of this modern, comprehensive, high quality and mutually beneficial agreement by the end of this year to demonstrate the firm commitment of ASEAN and its partners to upholding an open, inclusive, and rules-based multilateral trading system.
9. The Meeting reiterated the commitment to strengthening cooperation transnational crime, cybersecurity, terrorism and violent extremism, maritime security, natural disasters, food and energy security, water security, nuclear safety, climate change-related disasters and environment management. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime with the ROK (AMMTC+ROK) and looked forward to the 2nd AMMTC+ROK Consultation to be held in Viet Nam this year. The Meeting also welcomed the adoption of the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)-ROK Work Plan (2019-2023) for Cooperation to Prevent and Combat Transnational Crime in November 2019.
10. The Meeting reaffirmed commitment to further strengthening ASEAN-ROK trade and investment by capitalising on the ASEAN-ROK Free Trade Area (AKFTA). The Meeting noted the decision to enhance the work on further liberalisation of products in the Sensitive Track (ST) List under the ASEAN-Korea Trade in Goods Agreement and looked forward to the full ratification and implementation of the Third Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-ROK Trade in Goods Agreement once the RCEP Agreement has been signed by all Parties. The Meeting also stressed the need for ASEAN and the ROK to work together in mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19 and in efforts on comprehensive recovery. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment to maintaining regional trade and investment and ensuring the sustainability of regional supply chains. The Meeting also agreed on the need to strengthen cooperation in areas such as digital economy, innovation, science and technology, capacity building and human resource development and welcomed the ROK's proposals to establish the 'ASEAN-Korea Standardization Joint Research Centre' and the 'ASEAN-ROK Science and Technology Cooperation Centre'. Both sides welcomed the work of the ASEAN-Korean Business Council (AKBC) and the ASEAN-Korea Centre (AKC) in increasing trade and investment flows, deepening business-to-business cooperation between ASEAN and the ROK as well as sharing best practices and providing capacity-building for MSMEs. The Meeting also welcomed the ROK's support through the 'ASEAN-ROK Start-ups Partnership' initiative to develop an ASEAN-ROK Start-ups Policy Roadmap and Start-ups Ecosystem.
11. The Meeting appreciated the ROK's continued support and cooperation in enhancing regional connectivity and narrowing the development gaps within ASEAN, including through the implementation of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025 and the Initiative of ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan III. The Meeting also encouraged the ROK to promote cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including Mekong and BIMP-EAGA sub-regions. The

Meeting welcomed the ROK's support for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN) and enhancing development and infrastructure in ASEAN and looked forward to the ROK's proposal to convene an ASEAN-ROK Ministerial Meeting on Smart City and Infrastructure in October 2020. The Meeting noted the commitment of the ASEAN-ROK Transport Ministers to further enhancing air transport connectivity between and beyond ASEAN and the ROK and to conclude a more liberal and mutually beneficial air services agreement that will encourage more people-to-people exchanges and promote connectivity linkages in the region.

12. The Meeting welcomed the ROK's continued support in promoting cultural cooperation and closer people-to-people ties including through the expansion of scholarship programmes, and the activities of the ASEAN Korea Centre (AKC) in Seoul and the ASEAN Culture House in Busan. The Meeting looked forward to enhancing cooperation on digital education and human resource development and encouraged the ROK to support strengthening ICT programmes for schools in ASEAN Member States. The Meeting welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the ASEAN Cultural Centre in Bangkok and the ASEAN Culture House in Busan in 2019, as well as the significant progress in advancing cooperation in film development and organisations between ASEAN and the ROK. The Meeting also noted the signing of a Memorandum of Intent between the AHA Centre and the National Fire Agency of the ROK with a view to strengthening cooperation in disaster management. The Meeting agreed to enhance cooperation on environmental issues and climate change and looked forward to the convening of the first Carbon Dialogue Workshop this year. The Meeting encouraged ROK's enhanced support to the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) to help curb wildlife trafficking in the region, conserve biodiversity and prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases, as part of green growth objectives.
13. ASEAN appreciated the ROK's increased contribution to the AKCF to support ASEAN's development through the implementation of projects and activities under the new ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action (2021-2025). The Meeting called for more programmes and projects under the new ASEAN-ROK Plan of Action including in the priority areas under the New Framework of the AKCF 2017-2020.
14. The Meeting exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern, including recent developments in the Korean Peninsula and the South China Sea. The Ministers welcomed the efforts and achievements made by all the parties concerned for advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the last two years. The Ministers stressed the importance of resuming peaceful and sustainable dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement by the U.S. and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Leaders, the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration. The ASEAN Ministers underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in this context, noted the ROK's proposals to advance inter-Korean relations such as strengthening inter-Korean cooperation in fields of healthcare and epidemic prevention and control and transforming the

Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into an international peace zone. The Ministers reiterated the importance of fulfilment of relevant UN Security Council obligations by all UN Members, and the establishment of lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers underscored the importance of ASEAN-led platforms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in promoting a conducive atmosphere to peaceful dialogue amongst the parties concerned.

15. The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of promoting and maintaining peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea as well as ensuring unimpeded economic activities lawful commerce in the South China Sea. The Meeting reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that would complicate or escalate disputes and affect peace and stability and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation. The Meeting further reaffirmed the need to pursue peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS. The Meeting also emphasised the importance of non-militarisation and self-restraint in the conduct of all activities by claimants and all other states. The Meeting encouraged all parties concerned to continue to develop constructive discussions and work towards preserving regional peace and stability.
16. The Meeting underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety. The Meeting encouraged substantive negotiations towards the early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) consistent with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, within a mutually-agreed timeline.

